

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

Independent Claim 1 is rejected based on the disclosures in European Application Publication No. 398759, hereinafter Yoshizawa, and U.S. Patent No. 4,738,704, hereinafter Vanaschen.

Claim 1 recites a process for the treatment of the glass sheets of an asymmetric pair of glass sheets for the production of a laminated window, whereby the glass sheets are preheated, then undergo a press-bending process, wherein the preheating and/or the press-bending process are controlled in such a way that the two glass sheets are at substantially the same temperature after completion of the press-bending process.

Yoshizawa discloses a method of heating glass sheets for laminated glass. The Official Action correctly notes that Yoshizawa does not disclose controlling a process in such a way that two glass sheets are at substantially the same temperature after completion of a press-bending process.

The Official Action goes on to take the position that Vanaschen cures the above-noted deficiencies in Yoshizawa. Specifically, the Official Action states that "VANASCHEN discloses that it is imperative that glass sheets be at the same temperature after pressing because the smallest difference in cooling conditions between the two sheets will lead to deformations which make that laminated glass sheets unusable (col. 1, lines 58-62)." However, what the noted portion of Vanaschen actually discusses is the cooling conditions of press-bent glass sheets after a press-bending process. The noted portion of Vanaschen does not state that

the glass sheets should be at the same temperature after the press-bending, and indeed, makes no mention of the temperature of the glass sheets. Thus, at most, Vanaschen discloses that the cooling conditions should be the same after a press-bending process.

Additionally, an ordinarily skilled artisan would understand that asymmetric sheets will respond differently to the same cooling conditions. Thus, even if Yoshizawa's method were used to heat asymmetric glass sheets, and the teachings of Vanaschen were applied thereto, the asymmetric glass sheets would not be at the same temperature.

Moreover, even if Yoshizawa's method were used to heat asymmetric glass sheets, and the teachings of Vanaschen were applied thereto (i.e., the same cooling conditions were applied to both glass sheets), after which the asymmetric glass sheets were at the same temperature, amended Claim 1 is clearly distinguishable. Specifically, Claim 1 is amended to recite that the glass sheets are cooled after the process by which the two glass sheets are at substantially the same temperature. Even if Yoshizawa and Vanaschen could be combined as discussed above, it is the cooling itself that would result in the glass sheets being at substantially the same temperature. Thus, there would be no cooling after the process by which the two glass sheets are at substantially the same temperature.

The Official Action also states that "after the glass sheets are finished and stored in a room of ambient temperature, the glass sheets would be at the same temperature." Thus, the Official Action appears to take the position that storing glass sheets can correspond to a process by which two glass sheets are at substantially

the same temperature. However, the above discussed amendment to Claim 1 also clearly distinguishes the recited process from simply storing the glass sheets.

Claim 1 is therefore allowable over the disclosures in Yoshikawa and Vanaschen, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 15 is rejected as being unpatentable over the disclosures in Yoshikawa, Vanaschen, and U.S. Application Publication no. 2004/0079112, hereinafter Inoue.

Amended Claim 15 recites a process including controlling the preheating and/or the press-bending so that the glass sheets are at substantially the same temperature after press-bending the glass sheets, after which the glass sheets are cooled. Amended Claim 15 is allowable over Yoshikawa and Vanaschen for reasons consistent with the above discussion of Claim 1. Moreover, Inoue does not cure the deficiencies in Yoshikawa and Vanaschen.

Amended Claim 15 is therefore allowable over the disclosures in Yoshikawa, Vanaschen, and Inoue, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 15 is respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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